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④ サーマルヘッド

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明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

サーマルヘッド

2. 特許請求の範囲

1. 基板上の発熱体層上に炭素または炭素を主成分とする耐摩耗層が設けられたことを特徴とするサーマルヘッド。
2. 基板上に非晶質または微結晶性を有する半非晶質構造を有する炭素または炭素を主成分とする発熱体層が設けられたことを特徴とするサーマルヘッド。
3. 特許請求の範囲第1項において、炭素または炭素の不純物が0.01~3重量部添加された炭素または炭素を主成分とする発熱体層が設けられたことを特徴とするサーマルヘッド。
4. 特許請求の範囲第1項または第2項において、炭素または水素元素が0.01~20重量部添加されたことを特徴とするサーマルヘッド。

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3. 発明の詳細な説明

本発明は感熱記録用サーマルヘッドに関するもので、特に耐摩耗層を熱伝導率が固体中で最大であり最も耐摩耗性を有する炭素または炭素を主成分とする材料により設けることを目的としている。

本発明は発熱体層を非晶質（アモルファス以下A_Sという）または93~200Åの大きさの微結晶性を有する半非晶質（セミアモルファス以下S_{AS}という）の如きプラズマ気相法による100~650℃程度もしくは200~350℃の低温で形成する炭素または炭素を主成分とする材料により設けることを目的としている。

本発明はかかる耐摩耗層または発熱層がプラズマ気相法すなわち0.01~10 Torrの減圧下にて直流、高周波（500kHz~50MHz）またはマイクロ波（例えば2.45GHz）の周波数の電磁エネルギーを加えてグローまたはアーク放電を発生させてプラズマ化し、かかる電磁エネルギーにより気化した反応性気体例えばエチレン、プロパン

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り100~450℃乃至しくは200~350℃例えば300℃に加熱した。この後この雰囲気中へ水素へリウムを導入し、10~10⁵ Torrとした後導電方式または電圧印加方式により電圧エネルギーを加えた。例えば13.56MHz、50~500Wとし、その実質的な電圧印加は10~150Vと長くした。それはプラズマ化した時の反応性気体である炭素はきわめて安定な材料であるため各炭素または炭素が結合した合金分子に対し高いエネルギーを与え、炭素同士互いに共有結合をさせるためである。形成された被覆に對して出力が50~150WまたはASが250~500WではSASがその中間ではそれらが混合した構造が電子顕微鏡では観察された。

さらにこのプラズマ化した雰囲気中へ、炭化水素気体例えばメタレンまたはプロパンを導入した。するとこの反応性気体が炭素水素化し、炭素の結合が互いに共有結合し合つて、被形成面に炭素被覆を形成させることができた。

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実施例2

この実施例は実施例1と同様の装置のサーマルプリンタを、実施例1と同様のプラズマ気相法を用いて炭素被覆を形成させた場合である。

その製造は実施例1と同様の条件のプラズマ気相法とした。しかし形成される被覆が導電性(抵抗性)または半導体性であることを必要とするため、形成された被覆はI価またはV価の不純物例えばホウ素、またはリンを添加しないかまたは不純物気体/炭化水素気体=0.01以下に添加した。ASまたはSASの炭素またはかかる不純物を不純物気体/炭化水素気体=0.01~3%に添加した抵抗性または半導体性の被覆を形成せしめた。

すなわちその結果被覆に對しては、出発物質をシラン(SiH₄, 92.1)、四フ化炭素を用い、同様の100~450℃例えば200~350℃にて形成させた。高周波エネルギーは13.56MHzを10~50WとしてAS、または50~200Wとして

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装置の温度が100~200℃にては、被覆が若干低く、また温度への影響性が必ずしも好ましいものではなかったが、200℃以上で250~350℃に於いては、きわめて安定な強い被覆形成への影響性を有していた。

加熱温度は450℃以上になると、温度との熱膨張係数の差によりストレスが内在してしまい問題があり、250~450℃で形成された被覆が理想的な耐摩耗材料であつた。

出発物質をTMS((CH₃)₃Si)、TES((C₂H₅)₃Si)を用いると、形成された被覆には炭素が15~30電子を含む主成分が炭素の被覆であつた。これでも炭素のみと同様の温度があつた。熱伝導度は炭素のみが37/cg 40gであつたが2~37/cg 40gと少なかった。

以上の如くにして形成された炭素被覆は0.05~0.2μの厚さすなわち従来の1/5~1/10の厚さであつても10'時間以上の使用に對する耐摩耗性を有していた。

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SASを形成させた。I価の不純物は例えばホウ素をASを用いて、またV価の不純物は例えばリンをPSを用いて前記した比の如く微量なドーブまたはノンドーブをして用いた。形成された被覆中に水素が20モル以下に含有したが発熱させることによりそれらは外部に放出されてしまつた。

また炭素に於いては、実施例1と同様のメタレンを用いた。ここにAS/C₂H₅=0.01~3%、PS/C₂H₅=0.01~3%として形成させた。その結果電圧伝導度は10~10³(400)が得られた。

以上の説明より明らかを如く、本発明はその温度としてプラズマ気相法を用いるため、温度が100~450℃代表的には250~400℃で300℃という従来の被覆形成方法で考えるならば低い温度で可能である。特に300℃以下であることは被覆材料としてガラスを用いる時その熱膨張の差に對しきわめてこれを少くし、従来の高温処理による被覆のそり等の欠

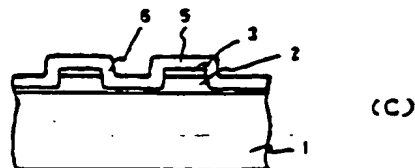
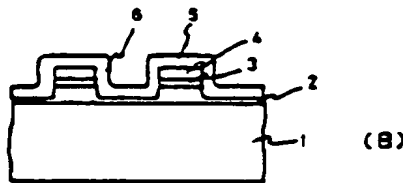
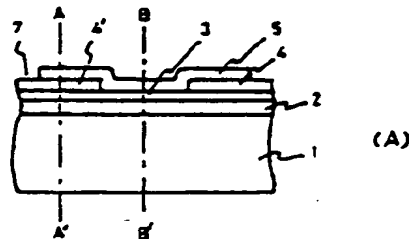
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本発明はプラズマ重合体を主として記した。
しかしかかる耐摩耗性が得られる限りにおいて
イオンブレーティングその他のプラズマまたは

第 1 圖は本発明のナールプリントのたて新面図を示す。

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1. Title of the Invention: Thermal Head
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Specification

1. Title of the Invention.
Thermal Head
2. What is claimed is:
 1. A thermal head characterized by providing an abrasion resistant layer on a heat generating layer on a substrate, the

abrasion resistant consisting of carbon or containing carbon as a main component.

2. A thermal head characterized by providing a heat generating layer on a substrate, the heat generating layer containing, as a main component, carbon or silicon having a amorphous structure or semi-amorphous structure including crystallite.

3. A thermal head according to claim 2, characterized by providing the heat generating layer containing carbon or silicon as the main component injected 0.01 to 3 % tervalent or pentavalent impurity .

4. A thermal head according to claim 1 or 2, characterized by injecting the 0.01 to 20 mol% hydrogen or halogen elements.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to a thermal head for thermosensitive recording and the object of the present invention is to provide an abrasion resistant layer consisting carbon or a material containing carbon as a main component, the carbon or the material having the highest heat conductivity in a solid and having the strongest abrasion resistance.

The object of the present invention is to provide a heat generating layer by silicon or a material containing carbon as a main component, such as amorphous (to be referred to as AS hereinafter) or semi-amorphous (to be referred to as SAS hereinafter) including crystallite which size is 95 to 200 A, formed

at a low temperature of 100 to 450°C, preferably 200 to 350°C by means of the plasma vapor phase method.

According to the present invention, electromagnetic energy of direct current, high frequency (500 KMz to 50 MHz) or the frequency of micro wave (such as 2.45 GHz) is applied onto the abrasion resistant layer or the heat generating layer by means of the plasma vapor phase method, that is, under a reduced pressure of 0.01 to 10 torr to thereby generate glow or arc discharge to produce plasma. Activating and decomposing reactive gas, for example, hydrocarbon gas such as ethylene and propane, which is vaporized by the above-mentioned electromagnetic energy, a coat made of a material containing AS or SAS insulating carbon or made of a material containing, as a main component, carbon including 30 mol% or less hydrogen and silicon is formed.

According to the present invention, the carbon formed by means of the plasma vapor phase method as mentioned above is an insulator having an energy band width of 2.3 eV or more, typically 3 eV and having a heat conductivity of 2.5 or higher, typically 5.0 (W/cm deg) which is quite high and close to that of diamond, i.e., 6.60 (W/cm deg).

Furthermore, the present invention takes notice of considerably excellent characteristics, that is, a hardness of Vickers hardness 4500 Kg/mm² or higher, typically 6500 Kg/mm² which is similar to that of diamond and such characteristics is applied to a thermal head, thereby to provide a thermal head with excellent

abrasion resistance and excellent high speed thermosensitive response.

Moreover, according to the present invention, if boron or phosphorous as trivalent or pentavalent impurity at a concentration of 0.1 to 3 mol% is injected into AS or SAS carbon formed below 450°C, the carbon can have an electric conductivity of 10^{-2} to $10^{-6} (\Omega\text{cm})^{-1}$. In that case, therefore, the thermal head is used for a heat generating device and for that excellent mechanical characteristic, there is another feature that an abrasive resistant layer is not necessarily formed.

Additionally, according to the present invention, the abrasive resistant layer is adapted for the plasma vapor phase method in a reduced pressure state. Due to this, it is possible to protect the sides of the heat generating layer as well as the thickness of upper surface. If an abrasive resistant layer is formed by the conventional method such as the sputtering or atmospheric vapor phase method, the upper surface of the abrasive resistant layer needs to have a thickness of 2μ or more to cover the side surface (of a thickness of 0.2μ or more). According to the present invention, it is enough for the thicknesses of both the upper surface and the side surface to be 0.1 to 0.3μ , as a result, the thickness is decreased to about 1/10, thereby making it possible to further improve thermosensitive response speed.

According to the present invention, as reactive gas, hydrocarbon such as ethylene (C_2H_4) and hydrocarbon of methane

series (C_nH_{2n-2}) and, if silicon is partly contained, tetramethylsilan ($((CH_3)_4Si)$) and tetraethylsilan ($((C_2H_5)_4Si)$) may be used. In the former case, although the hydrocarbon contains low level of 30 mol% or less hydrogen, in particular, SAS contains 0.01 to 5 mol% hydrogen, it forms strong covalent bonds and had similar physical property to that of diamond. The latter case wherein hydrogen is 0.01 to 20 mol% and the amount of silicon is 1/3 to 1/4 of carbon, is so-called carbon-excessive silicon carbide which is an insulating material containing carbon as a main component.(having an optical energy band width $E_g > 2.3$ eV, typically 3.0 eV).

The embodiments according to the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings.

FIGS. 1 are sectional diagram of a thermal printer employed in the present invention. FIG. 1(B) is a sectional diagram taken along line A-A' of FIG. 1(A). FIG. 1(C) is a sectional diagram taken along line B-B'.

In FIG.s, a stack of a glazed glass layer (2), a heat generating layer (4), an electrode (4) and an abrasion resistant layer (5) is provided on a substrate, particularly ceramic substrate. Also, as shown in FIG. 1(C), an abrasion resistant layer (5) is provided in contact with the heat generating layer (3) at a portion which a heat sensitive paper sheet is rubbed.

The present invention is characterized in that this abrasion resistant layer (5) consists of carbon or contains carbon as a main component, that the material is formed by the plasma vapor phase

method and that, therefore, the side of the heat generating layer can be made almost the same in thickness as the upper surface of the heat generating layer as shown in FIGS. 1(B) and 1(C).

Due to reduced pressure (0.01 to 10 torr), reactive gas has a longer average free path and a large amount of the reactive gas goes to the periphery of the sides even if the vapor phase method is carried out. In addition to turning into a plasma, large kinetic energy is applied to each reactive gas to collide and the reactive gas is encouraged to fly in all directions.

As for the abrasion resistant layer, the following manufacturing process was adopted. That is, a substrate having a to-be-formed surface was tight sealed within a reactive vessel and the vessel was evacuated to 10^{-3} torr and at the same time the substrate was heated at 100 to 450°C, preferably 200 to 350°C, for example, 300°C with a heating furnace. Thereafter, hydrogen helium was introduced into this atmosphere to make the pressure of the vessel 10^{-2} to 10 torr and then electromagnetic energy was applied by means of the induction method or the capacity coupling method. For example, the electromagnetic energy had a frequency of 13.56 MHz, power 50 to 500 W and the actual electrode space was as long as 15 to 150 cm. This is because the reactive gas, that is, carbon when turning into a plasmatic state is quite stable material and each atom or each carbon associated molecule is given by the stable reactive gas, whereby carbon atoms or molecules form covalent bonds. As for the coat thus formed, AS was observed in

the electron beam diffraction at an output power of 50 to 150 W, SAS at an output power of 250 to 500 W and AS-SAS mixed structure at intermediate power.

Furthermore, carbide gas such as methylene and propane was introduced into the plasmatic atmosphere. As a result, the reactive gas was dehydrogenated and carbon bonds form covalent bonds, thereby making it possible to form a carbon coat on the formed surface.

When the temperature of the substrate was 100 to 200°C, the hardness of the coat was slightly low and adhesion to the substrate was not always desired one. On the other hand, more than 200°C, particularly, 250° to 350°C, the carbon coat had quite stable and strong adhesion to the formed surface.

When the temperature was 450°C or higher, there was a problem that stress existed due to the difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between the substrate and the carbon coat. It was discovered therefore that the coat formed at a temperature of 250 to 450°C serves as an ideal abrasion resistant material.

Using TMS $((\text{CH}_3)_4\text{Si})$ or TES $((\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{Si})$ as starting substance, a coat containing carbon as a main component with 15 to 30 atomic % silicon was formed. This had the similar hardness as the coat consisting of only carbon. The thermal conductivity of coat consisting only carbon was 5 W/cm deg whereas that of the coat was 2 to 3 W/cm deg.

Embodiment 2

The manufacturing process in this embodiment was carried out by the plasma vapor phase method under the same conditions of those in Embodiment 1. However, due to the fact that it was necessary to form a conductive (resistive) or semi-conductive coat, trivalent or pentavalent impurity such as boron and phosphorous was not at all injected to the formed coat, impurity gas / silicide gas 0.01 % or less was injected to AS or SAS silicide coat or the above-stated impurity with an impurity gas / carbide gas ratio of 0.01 to 3 % was injected to the coat, thereby forming a resistive or semi-conductive coat containing, as a main component, carbon.

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used as trivalent impurity and PH_3 phosphorous used as pentavalent impurity with the small amount of ratio were doped or no-doped as mentioned above. Although the coat thus formed contains below 20 mol% hydrogen, heat was emitted to thereby discharge the hydrogen outside.

As for carbon, methylene was used as in the case of Embodiment 1. Here, the coat was formed with ratios of $\text{B}_2\text{H}_6 / \text{C}_2\text{H}_2 = 0.01$ to 3 % and $\text{PH}_3 / \text{C}_2\text{H}_2 = 0.01$ to 3 %. As a result, conductivity of 10^{-7} to $10^{-4} (\Omega\text{cm})^{-1}$ was attained.

As is obvious from the above description, since the basic concept of the present invention is use of the plasma vapor phase method, the coat formation can be realized at a low substrate temperature compared with the temperature of the conventional coat formation method, that is, a temperature of 100 to 450°C, typically 250 to 400°C, particularly 300°C. In particular, the temperature of 500°C or less means that if glass was used as a substrate material, it was possible to considerably decrease warping due to the thermal expansion of the glass and to thus prevent quite serious disadvantages such as warp of the substrate which may be caused by the conventional high temperature process. Due to this, while only six (6) heat generating members of the thermal printer per millimeter were manufactured in the conventional case, 24 could be manufactured according to the present invention, thus increasing the number of heat generating members manufactured.

As is evident from the above description, the present invention is characterized in that insulating light transmission carbon having an energy band width of 2.0 eV or more, typically 2.5 to 3 eV is used as the material for an abrasion resistant material and that a resistive or semi-conductive member consisting of carbon or containing carbon as a main component was used as a heat generating layer. Due to this, according to the present invention, it is possible to form one or both of them by the plasma vapor phase method at a temperature of 500°C or less which is 300 to 500°C lower than the temperature adopted in the conventional vapor phase method and to characteristically provide a high degree of freedom for the selection of substrate material and a low cost thermal head.

The present invention has been described while centering around the plasma vapor phase method. However, as long as abrasion resistance as mentioned above can be obtained, other methods, such as ion plating, using electromagnetic energy and optical energy of plasma, laser and the like.

The structure shown in FIG. 1 is an example in the embodiments according to the present invention wherein a heat generating layer of monocrystal may be a transistor structure or other structures such as silicon mesa structure and planar structure.

4. Brief Description of the Drawing

FIG. 1 is a longitudinal sectional diagram of a thermal printer according to the present invention.